ops has been investigated. Most of these charges have been found to be baseless; whereever such charges have been proved, quick and salutary action has been taken against the guilty.

Agreement with Sri Lanka for withdrawal of IPKF

260. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been arrived at with Sri Lankan Government for the withdrawal of IPKF in stages;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the IPKF have achieved the objective for which the force was sent to Sri Lanka stating the price the country had to pay in terms of man and material to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during the visit of Raksha Mantri to Sri Lanka from May 30th to June 1st it was jointly agreed between India and Sri Lanka that as the situation in the Northern and Eastern provinces continued to improve, the IPKF force levels will be reviewed depending on operational requirements and the situation on the ground.

(c) IPKF operations have restored near normal conditions in the North and the East. The question of costs involved can be addressed only when their task is completed.

IPKF men killed in Sri Lanka

261. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IPKF men killed in Sri Lanka during the last 2 month, month-wise; and

(b) what is the present strength of IPKF men in Sri Lanka at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) The number of IPKF personnel killed in the months of May, June and July 1988 is as follows:—

May 88	... 35 personnel
June 88	... 35 personnel
July (upto 18|7)	... 37 personnel

(b) The present strength of IPKF in Sri Lanka is about 49,000.

Tapping of Ground Water Resources

262 SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the Gujarat Government to restrict tapping of ground water resources; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Over exploitation of ground water in parts of the State of Gujarat has resulted in significant lowering of ground water levels in those parts. To prevent harmful effects of unregulated exploitation of the ground water resources and quality deterioration, Government of India have circulated a model bill for enactment, with a view to regulating ground water development on scientific lines.

Crash of fighter plane belonging to INS Virat

263. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the crash of the fighter plane

belonging to INS Virat recently near Madras; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of the enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Board of Inquiry is in progress. The findings of the Board are treated as classified and not disclosed in the public interest.

Agreement Regarding Devolution of Powers to Provincial Councils in Sri Lanka

264. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have urged upon the Sri Lankan Government to take prompt steps for merge of the Eastern and Northern provinces in Sri Lanka and for the devolution of powers to the provincial council; and

(b) if so, what is the progress of the negotiations with Government of Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) In terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement the Northern and the Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka will form one administrative unit from the date of Provincial Council elections in these provinces. The Government of Sri Lanka have reaffairmed their commitment to the merger on several occasions, the last such occasion, being the Presidential Communique dated June 30, 1988.

Regarding the devolution of powers, the Sri Lanka Government have enacted the necessary legislation to set up Provincial council and for devolving powers to them. They have also assured the Government that suitable changes, and improvements in the devolution package will be brought about after Provincial council elections are over in all the provinces.

Tamils Killed in Sri Lanka

265. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Tamils who have been killed due to military offensive by I.P.K.F. so far; and

(b) how many Indian soldiers have lost their lives in military operations in Sri Lanka so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) In an operation of this kind, it is not possible to determine the exact number of civilians/militants killed.

(b) Upto 17.7.1988, 511 IPKF personnel were killed in the operations in Sri Lanka.

Agreement between WAPCOS and LBI

266. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Water and Power Consultancy Service (India) Limited (WAPCOS), a Government of India Undertaking, have entered into any agreement with the LOUIS BERGER INTERNATIONAL; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Under the USAID assisted Irrigation Management and Training Project, the WAPCOS have signed a Memorandum of Un-